this: Neither you, my son, nor your friends (De-mocritus, Leucippus, and Protagoras) are the first, who have entertained this opinion concerning the gods, but there have been always some more or less sick of this atheistic disease.—Wherefore, we shall now make a diligent search and inquiry, to see if we can find any other philosophers, who atheized before Democritus and Leucippus, as also what form of Atheism they entertained.

Aristotle, in his Metaphysics, speaking of the quaternio of causes, affirms, that many of those, who first philosophized, assigned only a material cause of the whole mundane system, without either intending or efficient cause. The reason whereof he intimates to have been this, because they asserted matter to'be the only substance; and that whatsoever else was in the world, besides the substance or bulk of matter, were all nothing else but *irdOri,* different passions and affections, ac- * cidents and qualities of matter, that were all generated out of it, and corruptible again into it; the substance of matter always remaining the same, neither generated nor corrupted, but from * Lib. i. c.3. eternity unmade; Aristotle's words are*

torn, iv.oper. , ,

p. 264. tliese ! *T&V* Trpwrwv ^iXoo-o<f>i)<rav™v ot rac; *iv* vXnc «§« *fiovov (prfQrjaav* ap/ac eTuae TOJV, !£ *ov* yap eerriv aVavra ret oVra, *KCU* f£ *ov*

v$_y$ /cat £t£ 6 *<f>0tipzrai* rgXeimuov, *rrjg* jusv *OVGICLC; VT*|

C, rote Se 7ra0£cri jU£ra/3aXXov<njc$_3$ *rov*$_t$*ro* errotyaov, *Kai* ravrrjv rcov ovrwv *rr*|*v* dp^rfv ^aortv avat* JVTost of

those, who first philosophized, took notice of no other principle of things in the universe, than what is to be, referred to the material cause; for that,